

CONGRATULATING BRIGADIER
GENERAL JOSEPH A. LANNI ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General Joseph A. Lanni for his outstanding service to our Nation on the occasion of his retirement.

On behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to congratulate Brigadier General Lanni upon his retirement as Commander of the Air Force Security Assistance Center at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

His over 31 years of dedicated service to the citizens of our Nation and our area is both admirable and commendable. Lanni received his commission in 1980 upon his graduation from the U.S. Air Force Academy. As Commander, Air Force Security Assistance Center, General Lanni was the focal point for administering the Air Force's \$92.7 billion security assistance budget supporting foreign military sales to more than 96 countries, operating more than 6,000 aircraft and other major weapons systems.

Over the course of his distinguished career, he served as an operational fighter pilot, aggressor pilot, and experimental test pilot. He also commanded a classified Flight Test Squadron and the 412th Test Wing. Additionally, he directed the F-22 Combined Test Force, and served on the Headquarters Air Force and Joint Staff. Lanni is a command pilot with more than 4,700 flight hours including the F-22 and 90 different types of aircraft and classified prototypes.

For his many years of service to our Nation, I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending our best wishes upon his retirement and wish him ongoing success in all future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN
METHODIST UNIVERSITY ON ITS
CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Southern Methodist University (SMU) on the occasion of their Centennial Celebration. I am a proud alumnus of SMU, and look forward to their four-year celebration to commemorate this anniversary.

SMU has made amazing strides over the past century, rising from a small rural college to an internationally renowned university. From its founding in 1911 till today, SMU has graduated more than 100,000 alumni. The outstanding achievement and leadership of those alumni serves as a testament to SMU's tradition of success. With seven different schools, SMU ranks as one of the best universities in the Nation. The Cox School of Business is routinely ranked in the top 25 business schools in the United States. In addition to

twelve alumni who are past and present Members of the U.S. Congress, SMU has graduated such notable individuals as: John Tyson, CEO of Tyson Foods; former-First Lady, Laura Bush; Lamar Hunt, founder of the American Football League; Harriet Miers, former-White House Counsel and Supreme Court nominee; James Cronin, Nobel Prize winning physicist; Mary Ellen Weber, NASA astronaut; and Karen Hughes, former Under Secretary of State.

For these well-know alumni, myself, and thousands of former and current students, SMU holds a special place in our hearts. There is a strong sense of pride amongst the SMU community, and the values we learned in school have stayed with us throughout our lives. We were and always will be SMU Mustangs.

With an eye towards the next generation, SMU is not only celebrating the past, but planning for the future. This Centennial Celebration will serve as a time to ensure the next hundred years are even more successful than the first one hundred.

I congratulate SMU, its faculty, staff, supporters and alumni on this monumental occasion. I look forward to continued involvement with SMU, and hope we can work together to ensure outstanding achievement for the University in the years to come.

REMEMBERING THE AFRICAN-
AMERICAN 371ST INFANTRY
REGIMENT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the 371st Infantry Regiment was formed in August 1917 and consisted of African-American draftees mostly from South Carolina and white officers. After training at Camp Jackson, the unit arrived on the Western Front in April 1918. It was placed under the command of the French Army because of their desperate need for new troops, and because of racial tensions within the U.S. army. The 371st soldiers were given French equipment and reorganized to fit the French army structure. They spent the spring of 1918 training in French tactics and units.

The 371st was then thrown into the "Final Offensive" of the Great War in September. Though fighting well, they suffered heavy casualties: over 1,000 men out of 2,384 were lost in eight days. On September 28, 1918, just six weeks before the end of World War I, Corporal Freddie Stowers (21) of Sandy Springs, SC was killed, leading the remnants of his company to capture German positions after an ambush. After feigning surrender the Germans opened up with machine gun and mortar fire, instantly destroying over half of the company. Stowers rallied the survivors and led them to knock out one machine gun nest, and though mortally wounded, urged them on to capture a second trench line to stop the threat and cause heavy enemy casualties. His commanding officer recommended him for the Medal of Honor.

Vice-Admiral Moreau, on behalf of the French Government, decorated the regimental colors on January 27, 1919, in Brest. The

371st won the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre. The American Distinguished Services Cross was awarded to ten officers and twelve enlisted men.

Upon the 371st Regiment's return to Columbia, SC, the community worked together to fundraise for a reception honoring the soldiers. The event was held on February 29, 1919 at Allen University. The two flags of the 371st Regiment were presented to the community during the reception. These flags are part of the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum's collection.

With the war over, the unit was disbanded and the achievements of the 371st quickly faded. Fortunately, this was not the end of the story. The Medal of Honor nomination for Freddie Stowers languished for 70 years but in 1988, several members of Congress began campaigning on behalf of African-American World War I soldiers not properly recognized. Stowers became the first African-American soldier from World War I to earn the medal.

HONORING KAREN CARUSO FOR
BEING NAMED NORTH CARO-
LINA'S 2011 SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Karen Caruso, CEO of Mind Your Business, Inc. located in Hendersonville, North Carolina, for being named North Carolina's 2011 Small Business Person of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

In 1995, Ms. Caruso was watching an Oprah Winfrey show on abusive child care providers and saw the need for parents to be able to screen the individuals who would potentially be caring for their children. Her background in security proved to be useful in developing applicant screening services. Mind Your Business, Inc. was launched in 1996 with two employees and \$2,500 in the basement of Ms. Caruso's home.

Despite facing a market dominated by men and large corporations, Ms. Caruso's business has continued to expand. She now employs 14 people and operates a 3,000-square-foot facility in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Mind Your Business, Inc. now offers several screening options, including pre-employment screening, applicant background checks, and drug and alcohol testing services for individuals, corporate, and government clients.

Mind Your Business, Inc. is a prime example of the success that can be accomplished through a partnership between entrepreneurs and the SBA. Ms. Caruso has made use of several SBA programs, including training through SCORE, the North Carolina Small Business Technology and Development Center, and the SBA Women's Business Center.

I congratulate Karen Caruso for having the vision and perseverance to create a business that, despite these economically difficult times, has shown record profits in 2009 and 2010. Ms. Caruso's business has provided security, given peace of mind to parents, and helped ensure the safety of our region's children.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the exceptional career of Ms. Karen